

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02167 111459Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0673
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AF, KU, EAID
SUBJ: AFGHAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: (A) KABUL 2318, (B) JIDDA 2691, (C) 77 KABUL 2295.

1. AFGHAN PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD PAID A STATE VISIT TO KUWAIT APRIL 4-6 ACCOMPANIED BY HIS MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND COMMERCE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. TALKS WITH THE KUWAITI AMIR AND DEPUTY PRI MIN/FON MIN SABAH AL-AHMAD REPORTEDLY CENTERED AROUND "BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION" (READ KUWAITI ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN) AND THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD. AN ANODYNE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED APRIL 6 NOTED THAT THE KUWAITI AND AFGHAN HEADS OF STATE "EMPHASIZED" THE IMPORTANCE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND THAT THEIR VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WERE "SIMILAR." PRESIDENT DAOUD TOURED GOK OIL PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

2. DCM CALLED ON AFGHAN CHARGE APRIL 9 TO SOUND HIM OUT ON THE DAOUD VISIT, BUT WAS ABLE TO LEARN LITTLE, SINCE THE CHARGE AND THE AFGHAN AMBASSADOR (RESIDENT IN TEHRAN) BOTH HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02167 111459Z

BEEN EXCLUDED FROM HIGHER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. THE CHARGE ALLUDED TO LIMITED KUWAITI ASSISTANCE FOR THE FARAH-RUD IRRIGATION SCHEME FROM THE KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (KFAED).

3. QUERIED ABOUT VISIT, SENIOR KFAED OFFICIAL TOLD ECON CHIEF IT WAS "MERELY ONE OF COURTESY." ALTHOUGH SUCH VISITS OFTEN

LEAD TO GOK PLEDGE TO SEND KFAED FEASIBILITY TEAM, NO SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ON DAOUD'S DEPARTURE, AND NO KFAED TEAM VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN IS PLANNED. ONLY MAJOR PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AT MOMENT IS \$200 MILLION FARAH-RUD VALLEY PROJECT, FOR WHICH AMOUNT OF POSSIBLE KUWAITI CONTRIBUTION NOT YET DETERMINED. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT OTHER MAJOR PROJECT FOR WHICH AFGHANS HAD LONG AGO ASKED KFAED FINANCING, LOGAR AIRPORT (REF B), HAS "MUCH LOWER PRIORITY."

4. COMMENT: MOST LDC HEADS OF STATE COME TO KUWAIT WITH TIN CUPS IN HAND. APPARENT LACK OF IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE KUWAIT AID TO AFGHANISTAN LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT DAOUD VISITED KUWAIT FOR SAME REASON HE WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA - TO REASSURE RULING FAMILIES OF TWO COUNTRIES THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD OVERTHROWN A MONARCHY, HIS REGIME "IS AND INTENDS TO REMAIN ISLAMIC, INDEPENDENT AND NEUTRAL." (REF B).
MAESTRONE

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